

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The following listing of the claims replaces all previous versions, and listings, of the claims. Please cancel claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 12 to 14, 16, and 18 to 26; amend claims 4, 7 to 11; and add new claims 27 to 32:

Claims 1 to 3. (canceled)

4. (withdrawn -- currently amended) The handheld power saw as defined by claim ~~[[24]]~~ 27, wherein the coupling means ~~[[ (10) ]]~~ is configured as a detent coupling.

Claims 5 and 6. (canceled)

7. (withdrawn -- currently amended) A handheld power saw as defined in claim 27, wherein said housing has ~~comprising a housing (20b), having a~~ contact element ~~[[ (22b) ]]~~ for bracing the housing ~~[[ (20b) ]]~~ on a workpiece and ~~[[a]]~~ said saw blade has ~~(12b), movable in oscillating fashion in a first direction (26b), with~~ at least one cutting edge ~~(30b)~~ pointing in a working direction ~~(28b)~~, wherein the contact element ~~(22b)~~ is supported displaceably relative to the housing ~~(20b)~~.

8. (withdrawn -- currently amended) The handheld power saw as defined by claim 7, wherein the contact element ~~(22b)~~ is displaceable, with a front edge ~~(32b)~~ pointing in the working direction ~~(28b)~~, at least as far as a height of the cutting edge ~~(30b)~~.

9. (withdrawn -- currently amended) The handheld power saw as defined by claim 7, wherein the contact element ~~(22b)~~ has a recess ~~(34b)~~ that is open in the working direction ~~(28b)~~.

10. (withdrawn -- currently amended) The handheld power saw as defined by claim 7, further comprising a spring element ~~(36b)~~ for restoring the contact element ~~(22b)~~ to a position of repose.

11. (withdrawn -- currently amended) The handheld power saw as defined by claim 7, further comprising a detent element ~~(24b)~~ for locking the contact element ~~(22b)~~ in a detent position.

Claims 12 to 26. (canceled)

27. (new) A handheld power saw, comprising  
a housing;  
a lifting rod in said housing;

a drive mechanism in said housing, said drive mechanism being connected with said lifting rod, so that said lifting rod is drivable by said drive mechanism to oscillate linearly;

a saw blade extending in a longitudinal direction, connectable with said lifting rod and movable in an oscillating motion in said longitudinal direction, wherein said saw blade is provided with a longitudinally extending recess in a guide region of said saw blade, said guide region being insertable in said housing, and said saw blade has a retaining region protruding from said guide region of said saw blade and a T-shaped extension of said retaining region;

coupling means for retaining and driving said saw blade, wherein said coupling means is located on a front end of said lifting rod and includes a clamping sleeve and said T-shaped extension of said saw blade is configured for insertion into said coupling means, whereby said saw blade is connectable to said lifting rod and drivable by said drive mechanism via said lifting rod;

a guide assembly for guiding said oscillating motion of said saw blade when said saw blade is connected with said lifting rod, wherein said guide

assembly includes two lateral bracing means arranged in front of the clamping sleeve and on opposite sides of said saw blade when said saw blade is connected to said lifting rod, said two lateral bracing means being configured to shield said coupling means from shear forces acting on said saw blade;

a pressure roller supported in a sliding fashion on a bolt, wherein said pressure roller is arranged to bear on an edge of said saw blade on an opposite side of said saw blade from a cutting edge thereof when said saw blade is connected with said lifting rod, whereby said pressure roller guides said saw blade in said oscillating motion in the longitudinal direction; and

a pressure bolt arranged in said longitudinally extending recess of said saw blade so as to bear on an edge of said saw blade in said longitudinally extending recess and directly guide said saw blade in said oscillating motion when said saw blade is connected with and driven by said drive mechanism via said lifting rod.

28. (new) The handheld power saw as defined by claim 27, wherein said two lateral bracing means each form a respective two-dimensional contact face for the saw blade.

29. (new) The handheld power saw as defined by claim 27, wherein said two lateral bracing means are composed of graphite-containing, lubricant-filled sintered bronze.

30. (new) A handheld power saw, comprising

a housing;

a lifting rod in said housing;

a drive mechanism in said housing, said drive mechanism being connected with said lifting rod, so that said lifting rod is drivable by said drive mechanism to oscillate linearly;

a saw blade connectable with said lifting rod and movable in an oscillating motion, wherein said saw blade has an end part with an outer surface, a recess extending from a rear end forwardly and having an inner surface, and a T-shaped extension extending from said rear end rearwardly;

coupling means for retaining and driving said saw blade and for connecting said saw blade with said lifting rod, wherein said coupling means include a clamping sleeve into which said T-shaped extension of said saw blade is insertable;

a guide assembly for guiding said oscillating motion of said saw blade, wherein said guide assembly includes at least one lateral bracing means located along a direction of said oscillating motion in front of said clamping sleeve and shielding said clamping sleeve of said coupling means from shear forces acting on said saw blade when said saw blade is connected to said lifting rod;

a pressure roller supported in a sliding fashion on a bolt, which is located to bear on said outer surface of said saw blade when said saw blade is connected to said lifting rod in order to guide said saw blade in a direction of said oscillating motion; and

a pressure bolt located in said recess of said saw blade so as to bear on said inner surface of said recess to directly guide said saw blade in said direction of said oscillating motion when said saw blade is connected to said lifting rod.

31. (new) The handheld power saw as defined by claim 30, wherein said at least one lateral bracing means consists of two bracing means arranged on opposite sides of said saw blade when said saw blade is connected with said lifting rod, wherein each of said two

bracing means forms a respective two-dimensional contact face for the saw blade.

32. (new) The handheld power saw as defined by claim 30, wherein said at least one lateral bracing means is composed of graphite-containing, lubricant-filled sintered bronze.